

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A mask assembly for a patient comprising:
a frame;
a cushion provided to the frame; and
a vent assembly including a first vent, a second vent, and a selector to switch the flow of exhaled gas from the patient between the first and second vents.
2. (Original) The mask assembly of claim 1, wherein the first and second vents include at least one characteristic relating to noise and/or flow which are different from one another.
3. (Currently Amended) The mask assembly according to ~~any one of~~ ~~claims~~claim 1~~[-2]~~, wherein the frame comprises a shell and the vent assembly is provided on the shell.
4. (Currently Amended) The mask assembly according to ~~any one of~~ ~~claims~~claim 1~~[-3]~~, wherein the cushion includes nozzle elements and the selector includes a clip that is slidable with respect to the frame to select between the first and second vents.

5. (Currently Amended) The mask assembly according to ~~any one of~~
~~claims~~claim 1~~[-4]~~, wherein the selector is rotatable.

6. (Currently Amended) The mask assembly according to ~~any one of~~
~~claims~~claim 1~~[-5]~~, wherein the selector is pivotable.

7. (Currently Amended) The mask assembly according to ~~any one of~~
~~claims~~claim 1~~[-6]~~, wherein the selector is slidable.

8. (Currently Amended) The mask assembly according to ~~any one of~~
~~claims~~claim 1, ~~2 or 4-7~~, wherein the frame includes an elbow and the selector is
provided on the elbow.

9. (Original) The mask assembly of claim 8, wherein the selector is provided
on a depending arm of the elbow.

10. (Currently Amended) The mask assembly according to ~~any one of~~
~~claims~~claim 1~~[-9]~~, wherein one of the first and second vents is provided with a material
configured to reduce at least one of noise level and risk of cross-infection.

11. (Original) The mask assembly of claim 10, wherein the material is
selected from the group consisting of foam, GORE-TEX™ and ceramic.

12. (Currently Amended) The mask assembly according to ~~any one of~~
~~claims~~claim 1[-11], wherein the selector is adjustable between first and second
positions corresponding to the first and second vents, respectively, and the selector
includes positioning structure to define the first and second positions.

13. (Original) The mask assembly of claim 12, wherein the positioning
structure comprises detents.

14. (Currently Amended) The mask assembly according to ~~any one of~~
~~claims~~claim 12[-13], wherein the vent assembly is configured to vent exhaled gas even
if the vent assembly is not in the first or second positions.

15. (Currently Amended) The mask assembly according to ~~any one of~~
~~claims~~claim 12[-14], wherein an alarm is sounded if the vent assembly is not in the first
or second positions.

16. (Original) The mask assembly of claim 15, wherein the alarm is defined
by a higher noise level produced by the vent assembly.

17. (Original) A vent assembly including a first vent, a second vent, and a
selector to switch the flow of exhaled gas from a patient between the first and second
vents.

18. (Original) The vent assembly of claim 17, wherein the first and second vents include at least one characteristic relating to noise and/or flow which are different from one another.

19. (Currently Amended) The vent assembly according to ~~any one of~~ claim 1 ~~claims~~ 1 ~~[[2]]~~, wherein the selector is rotatable, pivotable and/or slidable.

20 (Currently Amended) The vent assembly according to ~~any one of~~ claim 17 ~~claims~~ 17 ~~[[19]]~~, wherein one of the first and second vents is provided with a material configured to reduce at least one of noise level and risk of cross-infection.

21. (Original) The vent assembly of claim 20, wherein the material is selected from the group consisting of foam, GORE-TEX™ and ceramic.

22. (Currently Amended) The vent assembly according to ~~any one of~~ claim 17 ~~claims~~ 17 ~~[[21]]~~, wherein the selector is adjustable between first and second positions corresponding to the first and second vents, respectively, and the selector includes positioning structure to define the first and second positions.

23. (Original) The vent assembly of claim 22, wherein the positioning structure comprises detents.

24. (Currently Amended) The vent assembly according to ~~any one of~~
~~claims~~claim 22~~[[23]]~~, wherein the vent assembly is configured to vent exhaled gas even
if the vent assembly is not in the first or second positions.

25. (Currently Amended) The vent assembly according to ~~any one of~~
~~claims~~claim 22~~[[24]]~~, wherein an alarm is sounded if the vent assembly is not in the first
or second positions.

26. (Original) The mask assembly of claim 25, wherein the alarm is defined
by a higher noise level produced by the vent assembly.